power of any one property of matter. This instrument employed by God may be compared to the screw, which is a mechanical power as well as the lever, or rather it is a complicated set of levers; and corresponding to it, we have in the tortuous, yet nicely adjusted arrangements of God, a potent means of extracting what would otherwise be fixed, and of elevating what is depressed, and all for the convenience and comfort of man.

By this agency he can at one time increase, and at another time lessen or completely nullify, the spontaneous efforts of the fixed properties of matter. Now he can make the most powerful agents in nature—such as wind, and fire, and disease—coincide and co-operate to produce effects of such a tremendous magnitude as none of them separately could accomplish ; and, again,, he can arrest their influence by counteracting agencies, or rather by making them counteract each other. He can, for example, by a concurrence of natural laws, bring a person, who is in the enjoyment of health at present, to the very borders of death an hour or an instant hence ; and he can., by a like means, suddenly restore the same, or another individual, to health, after he has been compelled to take a look into eternity. By the confluence of two or more streams, he can bring agencies of tremendous potency to bear upon the production of a given effect—such as a war, a pestilence, or a revolution ; and, on the other hand, by drawing aside the stream into another channel, he can arrest, at any given instant, the awful effects that would otherwise follow from these agencies, and save an individual, a family, or a nation, from evils which seem ready to burst upon them.

Let it be observed that, in the method employed by God, he has not only the power which the separate agents are fitted to exercise, but he has a farther power derived from their skilful arrangement, as now they combine and co-operate, through a

long series of years or ages, towards a given point, acquiring momentum as they move on, and again, as they come into collision, and burst with awful suddenness. Now we find causes which have been silently at work for ages, leading to a complete change in the manners, the customs, and character of a nation, or breaking out, where the channel in which they flow is full, in terrible convulsions, upturning society from its foundations. At other times, we find the wisest of human arrangements, and the results which mankind were anticipating, according to the laws